

**United States Bankruptcy Court
District of Utah**

In re **Joel Timothy Salas**

Debtor(s)

Case No. **24-24432**
Chapter **7**

DISCLOSURE OF COMPENSATION OF ATTORNEY FOR DEBTOR(S)

1. Pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 329(a) and Fed. Bankr. P. 2016(b), I certify that I am the attorney for the above named debtor(s) and that compensation paid to me within one year before the filing of the petition in bankruptcy, or agreed to be paid to me, for services rendered or to be rendered on behalf of the debtor(s) in contemplation of or in connection with the bankruptcy case is as follows:

For legal services, Debtors have agreed to pay.....	\$ 2400.00
Prior to the filing of this statement I have received	\$ 0.00
Balance Due	\$ 2400.00

2. The source of the compensation paid to me was:

Debtor Other (specify): Not Applicable

3. The source of compensation to be paid to me is:

Debtor Other (specify):

4. I have not agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with any other person unless they are members and associates of my law firm.

I have agreed to share the above-disclosed compensation with a person or persons who are not members or associates of my law firm. A copy of the agreement, together with a list of the names of the people sharing in the compensation is attached.

5. In return for the above-disclosed fee, I have agreed to render legal service for all aspects of the bankruptcy case, including:

- Analysis of the debtor's financial situation, and rendering advice to the debtor in determining whether to file a petition in bankruptcy;
- Preparation and filing of any petition, schedules, statement of affairs and plan which may be required;
- Representation of the debtor at the meeting of creditors and confirmation hearing, and any adjourned hearings thereof;
- Representing the debtor in any adversary proceedings or contested matters brought against them;
- All other services required by Local Rule 2091-1, and

Negotiations with secured creditors to reduce to market value; exemption planning; preparation and filing of reaffirmation agreements and applications as needed; preparation and filing of motions pursuant to 11 USC 522(f)(2)(A) for avoidance of liens on household goods.

6. By agreement with the debtor(s), the above-disclosed fee does not include the following service:

- Commencing any adversary proceeding on behalf of the debtor;
- Representing the debtor in any municipal, county, state or other local jurisdiction court matters;
- Representing the debtor in any tax matters;
- Commencing any action against a creditor for violations of non-bankruptcy law.

7. Counsel offered debtor(s) two options for the payment of Counsel's fee: (1) pre-pay the fee in full prior to the Chapter 7 bankruptcy petition being filed, or (2) bifurcate the attorney services into pre- and post-petition work in order to facilitate the debtor(s) making payments post-petition for some or all of Counsel's fee for post-petition work. Counsel charged the same attorney fee for these two options, but any portion of Counsel's fee not paid prior to the petition being filed was assessed a 19.9% administrative fee for participation in the pay-over-time program (see below for information about Counsel's relationship with National Access).

The additional cost was fully disclosed to debtor(s), who chose the second option.

8. Debtor and counsel entered into two, separate fee agreements for pre- and post-petition work.

- Debtor(s) signed a pre-filing agreement for the minimum work required under the Bankruptcy Code and Rules to commence the case. The pre-filing agreement advised the debtor(s) that if Counsel had performed this work hourly, it would have a value of \$1925. Any amount paid by debtor(s) prior to the petition being filed was credited: 1) first to the filing fee, 2) second to the value of the pre-filing work and 3) third to a prepayment of the anticipated fee for Counsel's post-filing work. Any amount that debtor(s) paid prior to the petition being filed is listed above in Section 1 as "Prior to the filing of this statement I have received." Any portion of the value of Counsel's pre-filing work not paid by debtor(s) as described above has been waived by Counsel.
- Debtor(s) signed a post-filing agreement after the petition was filed for the remaining work needed to represent debtor(s) to a successful

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(Continuation Sheet)

conclusion of their chapter 7 case. Any portion of Counsel's fees not waived or paid by debtor(s) prior to the filing are reflected in Section 1 above as the "Balance Due." The second fee agreement allows the debtor(s) to pay this Balance Due in installments over 10 months following the bankruptcy filing.

9. Counsel has a recourse line of credit from National Access ("NA") secured by a lien against the accounts receivable of Counsel, including the Balance Due reflected above. Counsel is able to draw against this line of credit each time that post-filing payment terms are offered to clients. NA also provides payment management and processing services and will collect installment payments from debtor(s) as well as any third-party guarantor (if applicable) on behalf of Counsel. At Counsel's direction, NA applies amounts paid by debtor(s) against Counsel's indebtedness to NA under the line of credit. NA also provides credit reporting services to the debtor(s) and education and training to Counsel. Counsel absorbs a fee calculated as 25% of the amount of the Balance Due listed above in order to participate in the program. Counsel is required not only to repay advances under the line of credit but also to pay both fees to NA regardless of whether debtor(s) makes their required payments. As a fully-recourse obligation, paying NA fees calculated as a percentage of Counsel's fees does not constitute sharing of compensation under Section 504 of the Bankruptcy Code or the prohibition against fee-sharing in the Rules of Professional Conduct.

10. Counsel has fully informed debtor(s) and obtained their informed consent to the bifurcation of services, NA's lien against the receivable, NA's payment management and credit reporting services, and to a limited sharing of information with NA concerning debtor(s) to facilitate counsel's financing and NA's payment management, processing and credit reporting concerning debtor(s).

CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a complete statement of any agreement or arrangement for payment to me for representation of the debtor(s) in this bankruptcy proceeding.

September 16, 2024

Date

/s/ Jarred Henline

Jarred Henline

Signature of Attorney

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Name of law firm